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**ROYSTON (Yorks) URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**




**OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956**

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ROYSTON (YORKS.) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1956

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor L. W. Jackson, J.P.

Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. J. A. Westwood

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor J. B. Hudson

Committee :

Councillor S. Bray

Councillor E. Brown

Councillor G. H. Cooke

Councillor T. Dyer

Councillor L. W. Jackson, J.P.

Councillor H. Pearson

Councillor G. Shone

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. S. Hynd, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(to 30th November, 1956)

R. Barnes, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(from 1st December, 1956)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

R. Barnes, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(to 30th November, 1956)

Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

G. E. Millar, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B., M.Inst.M.

(Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods)

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Divisional Health Office,
6 Victoria Road,
BARNSELEY.
December, 1957.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1956. Since only one month of the year came within my term of office, comment will necessarily be brief.

The vital statistics were on the whole satisfactory, although showing the usual fluctuations which are always evident in a district of relatively small population. The number of live births last year was considerably increased with a marked increase in the adjusted birth rate, whereas the number of stillbirths fell very satisfactorily. The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was very low indeed and, in general, I feel that you have reason to be well satisfied with this report.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs. Westwood and the members of the Public Health Committee for their support, my Divisional Health Staff for their willing assistance and your Public Health Inspector, Mr. G. E. Millar, for the loyal co-operation he has always afforded me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. BARNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYSTON

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area	... ..	1,452 acres
Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1956	... ..	8,180
No. of inhabited houses according to the rate book, 31st December, 1956		2,573
Rateable Value 31st December, 1956...		£55,176
Nett product of a Penny Rate	... ..	£200

The district is predominantly a coal-mining area with the majority of the population earning their living directly or indirectly from the industry. No major difficulty was experienced last year in finding suitable work for children leaving school and in this the two small factories in the district were of material help.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	... ..	72	78	150
Illegitimate	... ..	4	4	8
TOTAL		76	82	158

The number of live births registered was 158, 31 more than in the previous year. 55% of the mothers were delivered in hospitals or maternity homes as compared with 63% in 1955. The Registrar General supplied a comparability factor which relates the proportion of women in the district of child-bearing age with the proportion in a standard population. The crude birth rate multiplied by the comparability factor gives an adjusted birth rate which is comparable with similarly adjusted birth rates in other districts and with the birth rate for the country as a whole. The adjusted birth rate for your district last year was 18·7 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 15·2 per 1,000 estimated population in 1955 and with 15·7 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales. The excess of births over deaths, or the natural increase of population, was 86 as compared with 56 for the previous year.

Premature Births

11 babies were born prematurely during the year, 2 of whom were born at home and 9 in hospital. 2 babies died within one month of birth.

Stillbirths

2 stillbirths were notified last year as compared with 7 in 1955. The stillbirth rate was 12.5 per 1,000 total births as compared with 52.2 per 1,000 total births in 1955, and with 23.0 per 1,000 total births for England and Wales.

Deaths

The adjusted death rate, which is the crude death rate multiplied by the comparability factor, was 12.0 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 10.9 per 1,000 estimated population in 1955 and with 11.7 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales. There were 72 deaths among the inhabitants of your district, an increase of 1 over the previous year, and the principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were: heart and circulatory diseases, cancer, respiratory diseases. Statistics relating to death rates and causes and ages at death are given in tabular form at the end of the section on vital statistics.

Infant Mortality and Peri-Natal Mortality

There were two infant deaths last year in your district, one more than in the previous year. Both deaths were due to prematurity and took place in the first three days of life. In both cases there was some ante-natal abnormality and the patients were booked for hospital confinements. It is very pleasing to note that this slight increase in infant mortality was accompanied by a much sharpened reduction in your stillbirth rate. As has been said previously, in this context the expression peri-natal mortality gives a very good indication of the standard of maternal care. Peri-natal mortality is expressed as the number of stillbirths plus the number of infant deaths in the first week of life per 1,000 live and stillbirths. I give below the record of your district over the past five years.

Year	Live Births	Stillbirths	Death in first week of life	Peri-natal mortality
1952	124	5	5	77.5
1953	123	2	4	48.0
1954	123	6	4	77.5
1955	127	7	1	59.6
1956	158	2	2	25.0

Maternal Mortality

I have to report that there was no death due to maternal causes last year.

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	2	—	2
1— 5 years.....	—	1	1
5—10 years.....	—	—	—
10—15 years.....	—	—	—
15—20 years.....	—	—	—
20—25 years.....	1	—	1
25—35 years.....	—	1	1
35—45 years.....	1	—	1
45—55 years.....	3	3	6
55—65 years.....	13	3	16
65—70 years.....	6	5	11
70—75 years.....	9	3	12
75—80 years.....	6	4	10
80—85 years.....	3	4	7
85—90 years.....	3	—	3
90 years and over	—	1	1
TOTALS	47	25	72

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1956

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	—	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	3	12
18. Coronary disease, angina	5	6	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	—	2
20. Other heart disease	5	7	12
21. Other circulatory disease	—	—	—
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	2	—	2
24. Bronchitis	4	—	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	3	3
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	—	—	—
All causes	47	25	72

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956 Based on the Registrar General's figures

	Royston Urban District	Aggregate W. Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Prov'nal figures)
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				
Crude	19·3	15·8	16·4	15·7
Adjusted	18·7	16·0	16·5	
Death Rate per 1,000 esti- mated population:				
Crude	8·8	12·6	11·8	11·7
Adjusted	12·0	13·1	12·9	
Infective and Parasitic Diseases excluding Tuber- culosis but including Venereal Diseases	—	0·07	0·07	not available
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	—	0·11	0·11	0·11
Other	0·12	0·01	0·02	0·01
All forms	0·12	0·12	0·13	0·12
Cancer	2·08	2·05	1·89	2·08
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	1·47	2·05	1·86	not available
Heart and circulatory diseases	3·06	4·76	4·47	not available
Respiratory diseases	0·86	1·37	1·29	not available
Maternal Mortality	—	0·69	0·52	0·56
Infant Mortality	12·7	25·9	27·1	23·8
Stillbirths	12·5	23·5	23·1	23·0

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The problem of residential accommodation for the aged and infirm is the responsibility of the County Council. The responsibility for the provision of chronic sick hospital accommodation rests with the Regional Hospital Board. I think, by now, we are all aware of the difficulties inherent in such a state of divided responsibility, and I think that little can be added to the solution of the problem by extolling the difficulties which inevitably are encountered. Many patients seem to fall between the two groups in that they are too frail for Part III Accommodation and yet are not chronic sick in the usual meaning of the term. The problem of old people needing ground floor accommodation in hostels has remained as difficult as ever.

Comment on the hospital provision for the acute sick, maternity patients and those suffering from infectious diseases can be brief for the services provided were, as always, both adequate and good.

General Hospitals

The general hospitals serving your district are given below. Their administration rests with the Leeds and Sheffield Hospital Boards through the local hospital management committees.

Leeds Regional Hospital Board.

1. Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.
2. General Hospital, Wakefield.
3. Leeds General Infirmary.

Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

1. The United Group Hospitals, Sheffield.
2. The Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.
3. The St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals

All infectious diseases requiring hospital admission were admitted to the Kendray Hospital, Barnsley. The ambulance arrangements were the same as for the previous year with the hospital retaining its own ambulances for this service.

Maternity Hospitals

Maternity cases were usually admitted to the following hospitals :

St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.

Pindar Oaks Maternity Home, Barnsley.

Manygates Hospital, Wakefield.

Hallamshire Maternity Home, Chapeltown.

The services of the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, were also available for abnormal obstetric cases.

Tuberculosis Scheme

The co-operation between the Chest Centre and the Health Department continued and, consequently, the essential link between the curative and preventive aspects of Tuberculosis was maintained. The two whole-time Tuberculosis

Visitors, while employed by the local health authority, had, for practical reasons, their day-to-day duties arranged by the Chest Physician. This very effective arrangement enhanced the value of their work for they came to know the tuberculosis patient and his contacts equally and were able to give advice to both alike.

The after-care arrangements included extra nourishment, when recommended by the Chest Physician, in the form of a free milk allowance and bed, bedding and other nursing equipment was issued on loan to patients where necessary. The Home Help service was also available when required.

The programme of the clinics held at the Chest Centre, 46 Church Street, Barnsley, is given below :

Tuesday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon (children)
Wednesday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.
Wednesday,	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Thursday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.
Friday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

Venereal Diseases

The nearest centre for Royston patients for the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases is in Barnsley.

Address : Special Treatment Centre, Queen's Road,
BARNSELY.

Other centres are situate at Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham and a patient suffering from Venereal Disease is at liberty to attend at the centre of his choice. Treatment is completely confidential.

Home Nursing

The Home Nurses in the division made 53,448 visits last year. 20,287 of these being to medical cases. 9,070 were to surgical cases and 265 visits were made to tuberculosis patients. The total number of visits made during the year showed a slight decrease, although the number of visits made for the purpose of injections rose by nearly 2,000 to 23,747. I feel that with the present establishment of Home Nurses a peak has been reached in the number of visits made. There is obviously a limit to the amount of work which can be done by a given number of nurses. The number of visits made to old people over the age of 65 again accounted for nearly 60% of the total visits. 721 visits were made to children under five

years of age. The home nursing service, in conjunction with the general practitioners of your area, is undoubtedly making a large contribution towards treating many patients in their own homes. But for this, I am afraid, the problems of chronic sick accommodation might be even worse than it is today.

Home Help Service

The home help service continued in 1956 to provide a service mainly for the old people of your district. 90% of the available home help hours were again given to such households.

An increase in the establishment of home helps was received towards the end of the year, but this was really too late to have much effect on the figures for 1956. On average 342 households per week were assisted as against 300 in 1955. The average weekly assistance given to old people was just under four hours to each old person. The Hospital Authorities on many occasions sought our assistance towards providing a home help for an old person before he or she was discharged from hospital. I think there is still room for improvement in the co-operation between the Hospitals and the local health authority along these lines.

Approximately 2% of the Home Help hours were given to Maternity cases. These cases are not numerous, but when they do occur, the number of hours per week required is often as high as 24 — 30.

Sometimes by providing a home help to a maternity case, a break-up of the family can be avoided, as otherwise children might have to be taken into care, during the confinement, by the Children's Department.

Laboratory Service

The laboratory service was provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Wakefield, a national service under the control of the Medical Research Council. The laboratory is equipped to deal with all bacteriological and pathological examinations, and a complete investigation is undertaken and report furnished for every specimen sent for examination.

Samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act for chemical analysis were examined by the Public Analyst at Bradford at the expense of the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare Service

Infant Welfare Clinic — Attendances during 1956

		No. of children who attended during the year	Total Attendances Under 1 year	Over 1 year
Wesleyan Sunday School,	Wednesday,			
High Street, ROYSTON.	10.0 a.m. to			
	12.0 noon and	353	3,080	1,435
Dr. M. E. Tapissier.	2.0 p.m. to			
	4.0 p.m.			

Ante-Natal Clinic — Attendances during 1956

		Number of women who attended during the year	Total number of attendances made during the year
Wesleyan Sunday School,	Tuesday,		
High Street, ROYSTON.	2.0 p.m. to	108	452
Dr. H. W. Gothard.	4.0 p.m.		

It is pleasing to make comment that the attendances of children at your infant welfare clinic has shown substantial increase during the year after a reduction in 1955. Attendances at the ante-natal clinic for last year remain relatively unchanged.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The work undertaken by the Mental Health Section is steadily expanding, particularly as a result of public interest through the publicity that has been given to the problem of Mental Health through the medium of the National Press, Radio and Television.

People are beginning to appreciate that mental illness is not a social stigma, as has been the case in past generations, and because of this a much more lively interest is being shown and problems that before have been shelved are now being discussed openly with an objective in mind.

From various reports it would appear that approximately 20%—30% of patients attending General Practitioners suffer from neurosis, or other illnesses associated with mental conflict. Also, when the report of the Royal Commission who are considering the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Legislation is issued it may show the need for Local Authorities to provide greater "after-care" facilities both for patients discharged from Mental Hospitals and patients on licence from Mental

Deficiency Institutions. Both these aspects show that the Mental Health Service will still have a further need for greater expansion.

During the year there were two part-time Mental Health Social Workers in the division who carry out Statutory Supervision Mental Deficiency Visits; supervision of Guardianship and Licence Cases; After-care visits of patients discharged from Mental Hospitals, and attend Phsychiatric Clinics.

Mental Deficiency

Set out below are details of the mental defectives in this Division, who are visited by the Social Workers.

	Under 16 years		Over 16 years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Statutory Supervision ...	14	20	54	61
Guardianship	—	—	—	2
Voluntary Supervision ...	1	—	23	24
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15	20	77	87
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total 199.

During the year the following new cases have been notified :

Section 57(3) of the Education Act, 1944 ...	6
Section 57(5) of the Education Act, 1944, on leaving Special School	1
Section 57(5) of the Education Act, 1944, on leaving Ordinary School	2
Reported on transfer to this Division from outside the Area	6

During the year the following defectives have been removed from the Register :

Removals to Institutions	2
Transferred to other Authorities on removal from the Division	2
De-classified	2
Died	1

Short-Stay Vacancies

Under the provisions laid down for short-stay vacancies, where relief of a temporary nature can be given in the case of illness or emergency, 5 defectives were admitted during the year for periods of up to one month. This provision is greatly

appreciated, and it is regretted that the Regional Hospital Board have not the accommodation to enable more vacancies to be available for this purpose.

Occupation Centre

It is regretted that I cannot report that the Occupation Centre at The Gables, Wombwell, is functioning, but the position is now that the building is being adapted, and should be completed by the end of January, 1957.

A staff of 3 will be appointed to run the Centre; a Supervisor and 2 Assistants. The Centre will cater for 27 defectives, but it is hoped that eventually the ground adjacent to the Centre will be utilised and a further extension to the Centre be added so that a greater number of defectives may be offered the facilities of Occupation Centre training.

Training of Mental Defectives

At present 14 children and 6 adult mental defectives are attending full-time at the Barnsley and Hemsworth Occupation Centres. Some of these mental defectives will be transferred to The Gables, Wombwell, and the vacancies created at the Occupation Centre, Barnsley, will be allocated to Darton, Royston and Cudworth.

There were two Home Teachers in this division and they gave instruction at the undermentioned Group Training Classes.

Monday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.—The Darby and Joan Club, ROYSTON.
Tuesday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.—The Gables, WOMBWELL.
Wednesday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.—The Gables, WOMBWELL.
Thursday,	9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.—Ambulance Hall, WORSBROUGH.
Friday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.—The Welfare Clinic, DARTON.

24 Defectives attend the Group Training Classes, and in some instances defectives attend more than one session, and are issued with travel vouchers to cover their transport.

26 defectives are visited in their homes by the home teachers, when it is not possible for them to attend the Group Training Classes.

Employment

The question of obtaining employment for high grade mental defectives is becoming somewhat of a problem as there

would appear to be a dearth of suitable employment. The Juvenile Employment Officer and Ministry of Labour give every assistance to try and secure work that is within the capacity of the defective.

37 Males and 19 females under Statutory Supervision and 19 males and 3 females under Voluntary Supervision are in regular gainful employment.

Mental Health After Care

During the past year there have been 45 discharges from Mental Hospitals (principally Storthes Hall Mental Hospital) and 9 deaths in Mental Hospitals have been notified. The Social Workers visit within approximately one month of the patient's discharge to enquire as to the welfare of the patient. These visits on the whole are welcomed, as the patient more often than not has had no contact with anyone since discharge and she feels that an interest is still being shown. Sometimes a visit is resented as there is a "guilt complex" on the part of the patient or relative that mental hospital treatment has been necessary, and unless the social worker is asked, no further follow up is attempted.

Some of the patients, although progressing, have some problem which is giving rise to anxiety and delaying full recovery, and often the Mental Health Service is able to give practical assistance. Others, may be relapsing and will attend the Psychiatric Out-Patients Clinic through the General Practitioner, when advised by the Social Worker.

School Health Service

Two important schemes in the prevention of Tuberculosis were again continued through the medium of the School Health Service during the year.

I give below details of this service.

B.C. G. Vaccination Scheme

District	No. of children tested	No. Positive	% Positive	No. Negative	Vaccinated
CUDWORTH	128	28	21.9	100	99
DARFIELD	72	21	29.2	51	51
DARTON	82	19	23.2	63	61
DODWORTH	49	14	28.6	35	35
ROYSTON	99	28	29.3	71	71
WOMBWELL	170	54	31.8	116	116
WORSBROUGH	99	13	13.2	86	84
TOTALS	699	177	25.3	522	517

I am sorry to report that in general the response to the scheme was not as good as the previous year.

The procedure is quite a simple one of giving a skin test in the fore-arm and if this is negative the child is given vaccination the following week. Parents are urged to accept this offer as, in my view, the scheme offers real hope of reducing Tuberculosis in the area, particularly over the next ten to fifteen years.

Tuberculin Testing of School Entrants

This service was again offered to all new entrants to Infant Schools during the year. The results obtained were very similar to last year, and I think the remarks made then are still applicable.

I give below details of testing.

District	No. of children offered Tuberculin	No. of parents accepting	No. positive	No. re-ferred	% acceptance	% Positive
ROYSTON Total No. of children in the Survey	112	105	—	—	93·7	—
CUDWORTH Total No. of children in the Survey	175	156	6	3	89	3·8
Total without known contacts	172	153	3	3	89	1·9
DARTON Total No. of children in the Survey	106	99	1	—	93·4	1·0
Total without known contacts	105	98	—	—	93·4	—
DODWORTH Total No. of children in the Survey	74	54	11	11	72·9	20·4
DARFIELD Total No. of children in the Survey	60	56	1	—	93·0	1·8
Total without known contacts	59	55	—	—	93·0	—
WOMBWELL Total No. of children in the Survey	236	198	4	2	84·2	2·0
Total without known contacts	234	196	2	2	84·2	1·0
WORSBROUGH Total No. of children in the Survey	163	147	3	2	90·2	2·0
Total without known contacts	162	146	2	2	90	1·36
DIVISIONAL TOTAL	926	815	26	18	88·0	3·2
TOTALS WITHOUT KNOWN CONTACTS	918	807	18	18	87·9	2·2
DIVISIONAL TOTALS (without Dodworth)	852	761	15	7	89·3	1·9
TOTAL WITHOUT KNOWN CONTACTS	844	753	7	7	89·2	0·9

The tuberculin testing scheme in the Royston district can be regarded as very satisfactory. 93.7% of parents accepted the scheme. No positive case was found. This augurs for a relatively healthy state of affairs.

Routine school medical inspections were carried out by Dr. S. G. A. Henriques at the undermentioned schools :

Royston County Primary School.

Royston Junior Girls' School.

Royston Junior Boys' School.

Royston Secondary Modern Girls' School.

Royston Secondary Modern Boys' School.

Summary of Defects Found

School Visited	No. of children examined	DEFECTS FOUND						No. passed for Treatment
		Ocular	E.N.T.	Heart	Lungs	Orthopaedic	Others	
Royston County Primary	111	—	1	—	2	2	4	2
Royston J. Girls'	51	10	1	—	1	3	5	4
Royston J. Boys'	46	11	4	—	—	1	3	4
Royston Secondary Modern Girls'	161	35	7	2	1	5	12	20
Royston Secondary Modern Boys'	170	36	—	1	1	3	12	22
	539	92	13	3	4	14	36	52

CLINICS

No. of individual children who attended and were seen by Doctor

School Clinics

Wesleyan Sunday School, High Street,
ROYSTON 221

Minor Ailment Clinics

No. of individual children treated by Health
Visitors 124
Total attendances 179

Specialist Clinics

Ophthalmic Clinics

Mr. N. L. McNeil, M.B., D.O.M.S.,
Ophthalmologist.
No. of children examined 135

No. of individual children
seen by Doctor

Orthopaedic Clinics

Mr. T. L. Lawson, F.R.C.S.,
Orthopaedic Surgeon.

No. of children examined 20

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics

Mr. W. L. Rowe, F.R.C.S., E.N.T.,
Surgeon.

No. of children examined 14

Paediatric Clinics

Dr. C. C. Harvey, M.D., M.R.C.P.,
Paediatrician.

No. of children examined 15

Speech Therapy Clinic

No Speech Therapist.

Child Guidance Clinic

Dr. S. M. Leese, Psychiatrist.

No. of children examined 1

Total attendances 1

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

There were 18 cases of infectious diseases notified last year as compared with 295 notified in 1955.

	No. of cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Died
Measles	5	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	1	—
Scarlet Fever	3	2	—
Dysentery	3	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—
	18	5	—

The following table shows the age distribution of the Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

	Under 1 year	1—4	5—14	15—24	25—44	45—64	65 and over	Age un- known
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Scarlet Fever

There were three cases of Scarlet Fever notified last year, of which two were admitted to hospital.

Measles

In contrast to 1955, only 5 cases of Measles were notified last year and I feel no comment is required.

Whooping Cough

6 cases of Whooping Cough were notified last year in contrast to the epidemic of 1955. 67 infants were immunised against Whooping Cough in 1956, which shows some improvement over the previous year, but still only represents 42% of the infant population. I think the time is opportune to issue a warning that Whooping Cough is a dangerous disease in the early months of life and that, although Whooping Cough immunisation does not offer 100% protection, at least it ensures that the disease is modified. Perhaps with the wider use of joint Whooping Cough and Diphtheria immunisation material some improvement in these figures can be expected.

Smallpox and Diphtheria Prophylaxis

The number of infants vaccinated against Smallpox was 40 or approximately 25% of the infant population. although this probably represents a fairly average level of vaccination throughout the district, I cannot really regard this as a satisfactory state of affairs.

The immunisation figures for Diphtheria last year showed little change. There was a slight fall in the percentage of children in the pre-school age group which was accompanied by a very marked rise in the percentage of children in the school age group. Statistics show that 70.9% of all children in the district between the ages of 0—14 years were immunised, with 35.9% in the age group 0—4 years and 84.8% in the 5—14 years age group protected.

If the number of pre-school children receiving Diphtheria immunisation were as high as the figures show for school children, then there might be some room for complacency. As the figures are, I would like to take this opportunity of warning parents of pre-school children of the terrible risk which they are taking on their children's behalf.

Poliomyelitis

It is a pleasure to report that in 1956 no case of Poliomyelitis occurred in your district. A start was made in May/June of 1956 to immunise those children who had registered in the early part of the year. Supplies of vaccine were very small and it is regretted that by the end of the year only about 10% of the children registered had, in fact been vaccinated. It is to be hoped that with improved supplies of vaccine in 1957 that the remaining 90% will be completed during the current year.

Tuberculosis

1 case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified last year, as compared with 1 and 1 respectively in 1955. There was 1 death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1956.

The co-operation which has always existed between this department and the Chest Clinic happily continued through the year. The Tuberculosis Health Visitors attached to the Chest Physician helped to maintain an even better liaison between the two departments, and I feel this is one facet of our work in which excellent co-operation exists between the hospital and local authority services.

As mentioned earlier in the School Health Section, the B.C.G. Vaccination programme was continued, and I hope in the coming years will receive popular support, because I believe that here at least some measure of protection can be given to young people during their early working life.

TUBERCULOSIS—Record of Cases during 1956

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
No. of cases on register at 1st January, 1956	19	12	2	1
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year	1	—	1	1
No. of cases restored to register	—	—	—	—
No. of cases added to register otherwise than by notification	—	—	—	—
No. removed to other districts	1	—	—	—
No. cured or otherwise removed from register	—	—	—	—
No. died from Tuberculosis	—	—	1	—
No. died from other causes	2	—	—	—
Total at end of 1956 ...	17	12	2	2

Age Periods				NEW CASES		DEATHS	
				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0— 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
1— 5	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
5—10	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
10—15	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
25—35	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
35—45	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Over 65	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...				1	2	—	1

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Royston Urban District Council.**

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and pleasure to submit to you my eleventh Annual Report showing the work done in the Sanitary Section of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

As in previous Reports, that portion of this Report dealing with the Public Cleansing Service and Salvage deals with the Financial Year ended 3rd April, 1957, and not the calendar year as is the case with the remaining portion of the Report.

Important new legislation came into operation during the year, and this will be dealt with in the appropriate portions of the Report.

Building materials became more easily obtainable during the year, but new building continued to attract most of the available building labour, but some improvement in the work of repairing and reconditioning existing properties was able to be recorded. Much still remains to be done in this connection, but the cleaner work on Housing Sites and Bonus Payments continued to attract building labour from the much dirtier work of repair and maintenance. Added to this, skilled craftsmen left the general building industry to take employment in other more lucrative occupations, and this drift away from such vitally essential work can only remain a matter of deep concern and regret. As work on local Housing Projects showed evidences of decline towards the latter part of the year, so did maintenance and repair work begin to benefit, and one can only hope that this progression will continue to gather impetus until the amount of such work which has accumulated over the years can receive all the attention it requires. Even so, it will take quite a long time to wipe out the arrears but the new legislation which is causing lengthy and heated discussions at Whitehall, will, it is to be hoped, begin to remedy this position. More on this aspect must remain for comment in subsequent Reports.

During the year, increases in wages and the cost of materials continued to increase the cost of maintenance and repair, but this aspect will be dealt with more fully in that

portion of this Report dealing specifically with Housing. There appeared to be an increasing awareness in the minds of Owners and Agents that more money would have to be ploughed back into property if the ravages of time and a heavily polluted atmosphere were to be checked and property was to continue in use, and there can be no doubt that the lifting of the ban on demolishing insanitary and sub-standard property helped to re-awaken such interest. In most cases, I am very pleased to be able to report, Owners and Agents complied with the requirements of Informal Notices to carry out repairs, but the odd cases remain where threat of Formal Action is the only means of having repairs carried out.

Many houses will require heavy expenditure to bring them back to an even reasonable standard of fitness, but it was remarkable in quite a number of cases where detailed advice and information was sought following which extensive works of repair were undertaken and houses which would have to have been considered for demolition were saved from such action.

As in previous years, the deterioration of the fabric of houses due to very heavy atmospheric pollution will be dealt with, in much more detail, in that portion of this Report dealing with Atmospheric Pollution. Older properties show, to an ever increasing degree, the seriously detrimental effects of atmospheric pollution on the fabric of buildings, but properties which have received regular maintenance indicate, in no uncertain manner, the wisdom of tackling this menace before decay becomes too established. Domestic chimneys serving older solid fuel burning appliances continue to belch filth into the atmosphere although less evidence of chimneys having been fired was apparent during the year, and one can only hope that constant advice on the folly of firing chimneys will gradually have effect. The question of concessionary coal must be taken into account in this respect, but this will be dealt with more fully later in this Report.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

As in previous years, this matter received attention as occasion arose. Complaints of various types of infestation did not show any material change from before, but it is worth recording that not a single case of bed bug infestation in Council property arose during the year, and only one such complaint was received during the year. In this case, the fullest possible co-operation was forthcoming from the tenant

as a result of which, early eradication of the infestation was accomplished and no re-infestation has been detected.

The number of complaints of cockroach infestation showed a very marked decline during the year, and is negligible as compared with the numbers of such complaints received only a few years ago. One can only assume, therefore, that the extensive work done in this field over the past few years has proved well worthwhile.

During the year, the following properties were dealt with :—

Type of House		Infested	Disinfested
Council Properties	... ..	4	4
Private Properties	... ..	8	8

Treatments of infestations followed identical lines with those carried out in previous years.

I am sorry to have to report that cricket infestation of the Council's Refuse Tip was again apparent during the year, but was not as heavy as had previously been the case. Covering material was not readily available, but all offers of suitable material were readily accepted. Treatment of exposed faces of the tip, at frequent intervals, continued to be carried out with beneficial results. As more houses became available for occupation, and were in fact occupied, so did the amount of garden refuse etc., continue to increase in ever increasing proportions, and appeals to householders to burn such refuse met with little or no success. This can and must be deprecated, and one cannot but wonder whether householders realise what value such refuse, after burning, is for the gardens attached to houses. Slight fires were found on one or two occasions in the Tip, but these were able to be got under control without having to call upon the services of the Fire Brigade, but more will be said on this matter in that part of this Report dealing with Public Cleansing.

Small quantities of insecticidal powder continued to be issued during the year, and the wisdom of this practice is, to my mind, fully apparent as reflected in the marked decline in complaints of verminous infestation.

TRANSFER OF TENANTS TO COUNCIL HOUSES

As in previous years, the system whereby the effects of applicants selected as tenants of Council Properties, both

new and existing, were inspected for the presence of vermin prior to removal continued during the year under review.

67 houses were inspected in this respect, and it is very gratifying to be able to report that in not one instance was any infestation revealed. This is a most satisfactory state of affairs.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

(a) Water Supply

Water continued to be supplied in bulk by the Barnsley Corporation, and this matter is dealt with by the Surveyor in his capacity as Water Engineer.

(b) Closet Accommodation

Particulars of the various types of sanitary conveniences in use in the District at the end of 1956 are given below :—

Type	No.
Pedestal water closets	2,873
Privies	28
Chemical closets	2

79 water closets were provided for new houses built during the year and 16 privies serving the houses known as 58 to 98, High Street, were converted to the water carriage system of drainage. The whole of these houses were completely re-drained, drainage being effected into the sewer on the Council's Doles Housing Estate. So far as other remaining privies are concerned, every opportunity will be taken to have these converted to the water carriage system of drainage, but in some instances, inaccessibility of sewers makes such a course of action impossible unless and until sewerage facilities become available.

The question of responsibility for the cleansing of the cesspools serving houses in Lee Lane was again broached by the respective Owners of the houses concerned, but after giving the matter serious consideration, the Council advised that they were unable to depart from previous decisions that the owners of the houses must continue to be responsible for the cleansing of these cesspools.

(c) Public Cleansing Service

The following report on the Public Cleansing Service deals with the Financial Year ended 3rd April, 1957.

Details of the various types of refuse receptacles in use in the District at the end of the year were as shown below :—

Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,591
Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Chemical Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The cleansing of the remaining privies continued, as in earlier years, to be carried out by the Public Cleansing Staff, and regular cleansing, once a month is tried to be maintained. The conversion of 16 privies in High Street reduced the amount of such work considerably, and galvanised iron dustbins were provided for the reception of domestic refuse. The Members of the Public Cleansing Staff carrying out privy cleansing do such work before normal working hours, being paid at overtime rates for the time so worked. The system continues to work satisfactorily and nuisance arising from privy cleansing is kept to a minimum by virtue of the fact that the work is done before most people are about which is preferable, particularly in warmer weather, than doing the work at various times during the day with the attendant nuisance from flies. Furthermore, this system causes no interference with normal cleansing which continues without interruption.

The following Table gives details of the number of refuse receptacles emptied during the year, together with the number of loads and their estimated weight.

Receptacles	No. Emptied	No. of Loads	Estimated Wt.	
			T.	C. Q.
Dustbins etc.	139,600	1,940	5,232	0 0
Privy Middens	231	64	178	16 0
Trade Refuse	—	211	105	10 0
TOTALS	139,831	2,215	5,516	6 0

At the risk of repeating myself, I feel I must once again draw particular attention to the question of the labour essential to the efficient cleansing of the District. For an appreciable number of years, other than experiencing slight annoying labour difficulties, during the year under review, as in the previous year, labour difficulties assumed an ever more threatening aspect, and it was only with extreme difficulty that the cleansing service was able to be maintained. Shortness of staff gave rise to dissatisfaction amongst those Members of the Council's Public Cleansing Staff who attended

work regularly, although, for a time, only half the team were at work. In spite of such difficulties, the work carried on, and every credit is due to the men who showed such tangible evidence of loyalty. A real difficulty in recruiting suitable labour was experienced, and one cannot but wonder whether cleansing work is too 'regular' for some of the people who enquired after work.

During the year, still further houses came into occupation, with an automatic increase in the number of bins to be cleansed. Such new houses continue to be either detached or semi-detached, set well back from the roads and so continue to increase the length of "carry" and also the distance the men getting bins out and taking empty bins back must walk each day. In addition, more work is entailed on the Tip. As a result of both these items, it became necessary during the year to increase the Cleansing Staff. The man who had previously spread his time between cleansing the Public Conveniences, assisting on the Cleansing Vehicle and giving some assistance at the Tip now divided his time only between the cleansing of Conveniences and assisting on the Tip, and an additional man was employed with the Cleansing Vehicle.

For quite a number of years, now, a regular weekly cleansing of the District has been maintained, and it would be a retrograde step to depart from this attainment. I feel that the men carrying out this vitally essential public health work are no longer looked at askance as was the case when the majority of their time was taken up with the cleansing of privies, and such a change of outlook amongst the general public is long overdue. In spite of this and in spite of improved rates of wages, recruiting of labour, as has already been mentioned, provided no small difficulty and I can only hope that in the near future, this problem will be able to be solved. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that the extensive works being carried out at the Monckton Colliery Unit has been absorbing all reasonably able-bodied labour and this may be a contributory cause of labour difficulties.

As in previous years, men coming enquiring for work seemed to lose their enthusiasm when told that a 5½ day week was still being worked, and this again could reflect on the five-day week being worked at the local collieries.

The following Table gives details of cleansing costs during the financial year ended 3rd April, 1957:—

COSTING

House and Trade Refuse	Collection	Disposal	Totals
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages	3001 5 6	594 2 7	3595 8 1
Petrol and Oil	176 6 0	—	176 6 0
Spares, repairs etc.	303 4 3	12 7 3	315 11 6
TOTALS—EXCLUDING General Administrative Charges & Depreciation.....	3480 15 9	606 9 10	4087 5 7
Cost per ton	12 7	2 3	14 10
General Administrative Charges & Depreciation	401 2 8	79 10 6	480 13 2
TOTAL COST— INCLUDING General Administrative Charges & Depreciation	3881 18 5	686 0 4	4567 18 9
Cost per Ton	14 1	2 6	16 7

Estimated Population (mid-summer 1956—

Registrar General's figure)	8,180
Number of houses or premises in the District...	2,990
Rateable Value of District	£55,176
Product of 1d. Rate	£200

	T. C. Q.
Total Tonnage Collected	5,516 6 0
Output of Refuse per 1,000 population per annum	674 7 1
Output of Refuse per 1,000 population per day	1 16 3
Average length of haul	1 mile

Based on the estimated weight, the weight of domestic refuse collected per 1,000 population per day was approximately 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts—a slight increase on the previous year, attributable mainly to the increase in the number of houses coming into full occupation but still a slight decrease on some years ago. The quality of concessionary coal continued to be very much better than was the case only a few years ago, at least so far as miners employed at the Monckton Colliery Unit is concerned, which resulted in a very considerable decrease in the quantity of very heavy contrary matter

in domestic refuse. Much unnecessary material, of a heavy character, in the form of garden refuse contributes to the heavy nature of the refuse in this District which must result in the high figure of output of domestic refuse. No appreciable decrease in the weight of refuse following the installation of modern solid fuel burning appliances was able to be recorded but one can hope that such decreases will eventually show themselves. Figures continue, therefore, to remain high. If the quality of concessionary coal at other local collieries could be brought up to the high standard of that supplied by the Monckton Colliery Unit, I am satisfied that a very sharp decrease in the weight of domestic refuse to be collected would result.

As in previous years, I feel I must again mention, in passing, that the lack of need for economy in the use of coal in households in receipt of concessionary coal must result in higher output of refuse, but added to this aspect, another aspect must also be considered. Tenants of new Council houses who removed from older properties with only one room on the ground floor supplied with a solid fuel burning appliance have been able to enjoy the additional amenity of a sitting room, and, judging from my own observation such rooms in the newly occupied houses were regularly used with the natural and automatic increase in the quantity of refuse accumulating each week. If it could be assessed what increased weight of coal was burned as a result of this, and the resultant ash etc., taken into account in computing the output of refuse per 1,000 population per day, I have no doubt that this figure would be appreciably less than it is.

Still further progress is able to be recorded so far as replacing obsolescent and inefficient solid fuel appliances is concerned, and, although it must take a fair length of time to eventually convert all older types of appliances, some satisfaction must be felt at the progress being made.

On the vexed question of the amount of combustible material remaining in refuse, it is with sincere regret that I have once again, to state that this matter continues to give cause for alarm. Modern appliances, properly used, give rise, in the main, to a very fine ash, with occasional pieces of shale, but it is a matter of regret that half burned fuel still finds its way into dustbins even where the house has modern appliances installed, and old habits of piling coal upon a fire in a modern appliance continues, but wherever and whenever possible, tenants are advised that such use of coal is as wasteful as it is unnecessary. Where older appliances remain in

use so does wasteful use of coal continue. The quantity of garden refuse, hedge clippings etc., again increased in spite of repeated advice to tenants that such material would serve a much better use if burned and dug into gardens or alternatively composted and then dug into the soil. Heating of the tip was again apparent from time to time during the year, and on one or two occasions, small outbreaks of fire occurred. The possibility of this arising from hot ashes being taken from under all-night burning appliances cannot be overlooked, but on at least one occasion, a fire which was discovered arose from children going on to the tip after the men had ceased work and lighting paper. Despite notices placed around the Tip, children continue to play on and around it constantly—a practice much to be deplored.

In calculating the cost per ton, no allowance is made for income from the sale of salvaged materials. Income from this source showed a marked decrease during the year, mainly due to the considerable fall in the value of waste paper as well as a falling off in the amount of paper recovered. The total income amounted to £121. 10s. 0d. and details of this appear in that portion of this Report dealing with Salvage. This income reduces the cost per ton (collection and disposal) by approximately 5¼d.

The cost of the Public Cleansing Service, expressed as cost per ton (Collection and Disposal) shows a further considerable increase during the year—16/7d. per ton for the year 1956/57 as against 13/11d. for the year 1955/56. This increase is due to further considerable increases in wages, the employment of additional labour, the increased cost of vehicle running and maintenance (the cost of petrol and oil showed a more than considerable increase for a large part of the period under review) and the fact that additional items of Establishment Charges are costed against this Service which have not been so costed in previous years. Even so, I consider that our costs will continue to compare favourably with those of surrounding Districts.

SALVAGE

As has now been the practice for quite a number of years, separation of various classes of Salvage continued to form an integral part of the Public Cleansing Service.

The market for waste paper became a very doubtful one and the price this material realised fell sharply. We were fortunate, however, in being able to dispose of all the paper

we collected, and in this respect were much more fortunate than many Districts. In spite of the fall in price, as this work forms a regular part of the Public Cleansing Service, provided some income accrues, it is a saving on the Public Cleansing Estimate.

Income from this source was less than in the previous year—£121. 10s. 0d. as against £187. 11s. 5d. during the year 1955/56.

Without any figures to prove my contention, I am of the opinion that the numbers of pigs kept in various parts of the District was less during the year under review than had been the case for several years, and much less evidence was apparent of householders keeping kitchen waste for pig and poultry keepers.

Details of salvaged materials disposed of during the year, together with the income accruing is shown in the following Table :—

SALVAGE STATISTICS Year Ended 3rd April, 1957

Material	Weight				Value		
	T. 28	C. 12	Q. 0	Lbs. 0	£	s.	d.
Paper	28	12	0	0	78	18	0
Ferrous Metals	2	13	2	0	8	5	3
Non-ferrous Metals		4	3	4	26	9	3
Rags, etc.	1	9	0	0	7	17	6
	32	19	1	4	121	10	0

The quantity of paper recovered during the year was less than during the previous year, and, as has already been stated earlier, the price for this material fell steeply. The quantity of rags able to be recovered whilst more than in the previous year, can still only represent a very small proportion of such material which I am certain could be made available for collection. Apparently more and more people from outside the District come into the District with remarkable regularity collecting rags, and it is now an almost everyday sight to see one or more of these people leaving the District with various types of conveyance fully loaded with rags.

Whilst I did not see toys etc., being exchanged for rags during the year, judging by various articles being carried about by children from time to time, I have not the least doubt that this practice was carried on. One can only regret that parents are content to allow their children to accept very meagre tokens from collectors for material of quite considerable value if disposed of properly.

DISINFECTION OF HOUSES AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As in previous year, disinfection of houses was carried out as and when found to be necessary.

The number of cases where disinfection is requested has now almost completely disappeared, but, as and when such applications are received, disinfection of premises, other than as required following the notification of cases of infectious diseases—and this is automatic—will always be carried out.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections

The following Table gives details of the number and nature of inspections carried out during the year :—

Nature of Inspection	No. of Visits Paid
Housing	
Housing and Public Health Acts	4574
Verminous Premises	204
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	646
Works in Progress	824
Meat and Food Inspection	
Slaughterhouses	844
Shops and Stalls	23
Butchers	159
Fishmongers and Poulterers	22
Food Preparing Premises	174
Grocers	44
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	36
Ice Cream Premises	50
Restaurants	6
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	20

Nature of Inspection	No. of Visits Paid
Miscellaneous Food Visits	180
Water Samples	16
Infectious Diseases	
Inquiries and Disinfection	7
Miscellaneous	25
General Sanitation	
Water Supply	22
Drainage	501
Stables and Piggeries	30
Fried Fish Shops	34
Civil Defence	6
Barnsley Canal	162
Factories	45
Cemetery	66
Bakehouses	17
Cricketts	35
Public Conveniences	78
Licensed Premises	10
Refuse Collection	259
Refuse Disposal	87
Rats and Mice	642
Salvage	90
Petrol	150
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	790
Interviews	1062
TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS ...	11940

(2) Complaints Received

During the year, 286 complaints were received, details of which are as shown below :—

Nature of Complaint	No. Received
Defective W.C. Service Pipe	28
Defective W.C. Flushing Cistern	5
Defective cone joint	2
Defective W.C. Pedestal	2
Choked drains	90
Choked sink waste pipe	1

Nature of Complaint	No. Received
Defective drains	2
Defective Inspection Chamber	1
Smoke Nuisance	5
Defective range	9
Dampness	8
Raining-in	8
General Disrepair	17
Subsidence	9
Defective Door	3
Defective Sash Cords	4
Defective window glazing	1
Windows blown in	3
Defective eaves gutters	13
Defective rain water pipe	5
Defective chimney stack	6
Defective oven	2
Defective fireback	1
Defective sink	4
Defective chimney pot	3
Defective wall plaster	1
Defective fixed windows	4
Defective drop bars to range	2
Defective brickwork joints	7
Defective ceiling	2
Overcrowding and/or Bad Housing	3
Dustbin not emptied	1
Rats	22
Cockroaches	3
Wood Boring Beetle	3
Silverfish	2
Bed Bugs	1
Crickets	1
Ants	2
	<hr/>
	286

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

There were no variations in the Register during the year, no premises being added to or deleted.

Premises included in the Register were inspected from time to time during the year, as opportunity afforded, 45 inspections being made for this purpose.

No complaints of uncleanness were received from H.M. Inspector during the year, and no case was found by me during routine inspections. Every credit is due, therefore, to the various managements for the manner in which they carried out the requirements of Factory Legislation.

No notifications were received under the provisions of Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937 (Outworkers).

The Tables on facing page are extracts from the Form of Return submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

As in earlier years, I am gratified to be able to report, once again, that no nuisance from smoke arising in the District, was apparent during the year under review, but, unfortunately, nuisances from both smoke and grit arising outside the District continued.

During the year, The Clean Air Act, received the Royal Assent and part of the provisions of this Act came into operation towards the end of the year. Powers given to Local Authorities by this Act should eventually lead to an atmosphere purged of many of the gross impurities that have been poured into it for many years with a resultant improvement in health, but the time is hardly opportune, as this Report is being prepared, to say much more about that vitally important new Legislation.

Some improvement in the serious smoke nuisance from the Monckton Colliery Unit became apparent during the year, and I gather that included in the extensive works at present being carried out is the conversion of the present boilers to modern, up-to-date appliances for steam raising. Unfortunately, no information is available to me as to whether any of the boiler firemen employed at the Monckton Colliery Unit have, or are taking advantage of the courses for boiler firemen sponsored by The National Coal Board. No doubt difficulties must arise where plant has been used continually for quite a number of years, but even so, care in stoking, even

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of			Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	45	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	45	—	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

with inferior fuels, could be carried out much more efficiently and without giving rise to constant emissions of black smoke for prolonged periods.

The problem of grit nuisance does not lend itself at all easily to a solution. I remain convinced that such nuisance arises from the wet quenching tower, and unless and until some means of grit arrestor for such towers can be found, I fear that this nuisance must continue to remain. Recognition of this fact whilst sound in itself, does not do much to soften the hard feelings of irate housewives, especially on wash-days.

On the wider aspects of Smoke Nuisances, comments of earlier years dealing with adverse factors outside the District affecting the District continue to be as valid as ever. Smoke continues to drift over the District, irrespective of wind direction, from chimneys, slowly burning spoil banks and from the by-product plants both at Monckton and at Wharncliffe Woodmoor Colliery. The coking plant at the Wharncliffe Woodmoor Colliery has become rapidly more inefficient with the passage of time, and whenever re-charging is proceeding, dense clouds of most evil smelling smoke hang like a pall over the surrounding countryside. By the time another Report is prepared, if rumours be correct, this source of serious pollution will no longer be in operation. To take the matter of coke ovens a little further, I am satisfied that unless and until some method is devised to collect volatiles which are discharged into the atmosphere during re-charging of retorts, nuisance must continue and consequent heavy fouling of the atmosphere arise.

On the question of domestic smoke, remarks of previous years continue to hold good. In those parts of the District where modern solid fuel burning appliances have been installed, there is a marked diminution of the quantity of domestic smoke constantly being belched out of domestic chimneys, but it was even more remarkable during the short spell of reasonable warm weather, how clearer the atmosphere was because fewer fires were lighted. Where older appliances continue in use, heavy pollution continues. To try to set an example on the vexed question of firing chimneys instead of having them properly swept, a circular letter was sent out during the year to all tenants of Council Owned properties drawing attention to provisions of The Clean Air Act in this regard, and requesting tenants to have their chimneys swept at least twice each year. It was found possible, during the year, especially when complaints of smoky chimneys were received, to demonstrate to tenants the damage caused to

flues by constant firing of chimneys, especially in one case where part of a flue collapsed and the tenant was able to be shown just what damage to chimney brickwork he himself had caused. One can but hope that the object lesson given has been passed on. Tenants cannot always understand just how much fuel saving modern appliances can bring about until they adjust themselves to more economical replenishing of fires in such appliances, but once they get out of old habits, they are most ready to acknowledge what a boon improvements in solid fuel burning appliances are. The lighter finish of these appliances obviates the drudgery of black-leading, and this, too, is fully appreciated. The increased efficiency of these appliances and, in very many instances, the useful use of heat which was previously lost up the chimney is also appreciated especially where domestic hot water systems are installed. Added to this, the installation of all-night burning appliances is most welcome where the male members of households are going to work or coming home from work at all hours. Whilst every effort is made to keep a check on the replacement of older appliances, I fear it is not possible to see every new appliance which is installed, but judging by the numbers of tenants who seek advice on new appliances, there can be no doubt that much replacement work is being carried out. It would be extremely interesting to know what premises in the District regularly use smokeless fuels but in Districts such as this where the vast majority of male labour is employed in or about the collieries with the result that the majority of households will be in receipt of concessionary coal, I fear that to advocate the wider use of smokeless fuels, even if these were readily available in sufficient quantities, would not have much hope of success. Concessionary coal has always been regarded as part of the wage structure for mine workers, and, should some agreement be able to be reached between the National Coal Board and the various Bodies representing all sections of mineworkers, a uniform change-over in the present system would not be feasible as all mineworkers do not live in houses where smokeless fuel burning appliances are installed. The whole question, must, therefore, at least for the time being, be left to higher authorities for serious consideration and discussion, and I would not venture to express an opinion on a matter which must be handled most carefully. Whether any solution will be arrived at in due course, only the passage of time will reveal.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

As in previous years, the various premises registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were inspected from time to time during the year, and details of the premises inspected are shown in the Table of Inspections earlier in this Report. Except for very minor matters which were readily put right as a result of informal action, all premises were found to be in a generally satisfactory condition.

There were no prosecutions during the year.

HOUSING

During the year under review, 787 houses were inspected for defects within the meaning of the Public Health and Housing Acts, and as a result of further Repairs Increase Notices being received by tenants from Owners or Agents of property, 4,854 visits being made for the purpose. In this connection, gales in the early part of the year caused quite a lot of damage which varied from quite minor to very serious. So far as I am aware, however, no personal injury resulted from the gale damage.

One benefit accruing from the damage caused by the gale was that more work of repair and re-conditioning was carried out than might otherwise have been the case. In addition to this re-conditioning work, other work of re-conditioning began to gain some momentum, but not as much as I could have wished for. Speaking generally, I was again fortunate enough to have works carried out after the most informal approach to Owners or Agents, but in one instance, open resentment was forcibly expressed when a notice requiring works of repair to be carried out was issued. It is of interest to note that in only one instance was it necessary to serve a Statutory Notice. Still more progress was made with external painting of houses and these splashes of colour relieved the drab appearance of houses which had not been painted for some years. It is unfortunate that repainting only brightens up the appearance of houses for a comparatively short time. The heavily polluted atmosphere quickly dulls the new paint, but no stronger argument could be put forward in favour of more frequent redecoration of the outside of houses. Even if the air is heavily polluted, this is no excuse for allowing general dinginess to hold sway. Furthermore, painting continues to be a barrier against pollution and prevents rapid deterioration of materials constantly exposed

to it. Flushing of doors became even more widespread during the year and this practice, provided the work is carried out efficiently, and doors are then painted, not only improves appearances but reduces the numbers of nooks and crannies which were present in panelled doors where decay starts. In many cases, however, flushing doors only served to cover up badly rotted doors and can, therefore, only be of any real benefit for a short time. If doors are falling apart, a panel of lighter material cannot be expected to make a new door out of one which is only fit for scrapping.

There can be no doubt that Owners and Agents realise the folly of not keeping up with maintenance and repair of property, but in many cases, lack of attention over a fairly long period increased the cost of repairs very very considerably, and, automatically, the question of economics was a constantly heard tale of woe. It must be admitted that the increase in the cost of both labour and materials was reflected in the ever increasing cost of repairs, and this factor alone continued to retard this vitally necessary work. Some satisfaction can be derived from the amount of work which was carried out during the year, but the amount requiring to be done continues to increase daily.

Some benefit accrued from The Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954, but by no means as much as had been hoped for. Judging by the heated arguments arising from proposed new legislation so far as rents are concerned, even if such new legislation does eventually come into operation it will require some time to elapse before real and lasting benefit is felt. The continuing heavy demand of building labour for new properties automatically reduced the amount of such labour available for repair and maintenance work and tradesmen had little or no difficulty in changing employers. In the meantime, the ravages of the polluted atmosphere become more and more apparent, and the quantity of repair and reconditioning work continues to mount higher and higher.

As for some years past, Contractors when pressed to execute works of repair constantly pleaded lack of adequate labour, and against this argument, little or nothing could be said. The marked preference for new, cleaner work rather than dirty jobbing work, together with incentive bonuses on new work, continued to take their toll but this position may right itself when fewer new properties are being built. The demand for new houses still continues unabated, but I have no doubts that if more existing houses were re-conditioned

there would be considerably fewer people wishing to change houses although there is an ever growing demand for the amenities provided in new houses. In spite of this argument, however, many young people would, I feel sure, be quite happy in older property, at a lower rent, at least for the time being.

Several houses were completely re-pointed during the year, and in one instance, where the Owners of the houses concerned lived away from the District, a message of thanks was received for advising them of the condition the fabric of their houses had deteriorated to. Much more such work will become necessary as time passes by. Several older properties were completely overhauled and, as a result, will provide quite satisfactory accommodation for a number of years to come. A by no means inconsiderable amount of repair work was apparent throughout the District. The increasing demand on time as a result of interviews which has become apparent during recent years continued during the year under review and both Owners, Agents and Contractors continued to seek more and more advice. This I feel to be most gratifying, and if an increasing number of people come to the Department seeking advice, properly, I consider it reflects credit upon the Department. Time so taken, however, decreases the amount of time which would otherwise be spent outside the office, and resulted in much work having to be done after what are normally regarded as being working hours.

Further evidence of damage to properties as a result of ground movement due to mining subsidence again became apparent during the year. In some instances, minor evidences quickly developed into major damage and houses which had been repaired temporarily by the National Coal Board had to have further "First Aid" repairs carried out—in some instances the same houses were repaired three or even four times. Whilst the majority of properties affected were in that part of the District from the County Junior Schools to the lower end of Midland Road, other houses in High Street and at the lower end of Station Road also showed evidences of damage, but the most continuous damage is shown in Milgate Street. I was fortunate to be able to not only maintain, but I think strengthen, the close liaison both with Officials of the National Coal Board and Owners and Agents for the properties affected. The new wall at No. 1 Godley Street, built by the National Coal Board within the previous two years fractured from top to bottom. Other houses which had previously shown evidences of damage was kept under

observation and where additional evidences of movement became apparent, immediate information was sent to the Coal Board. One of the buildings worst affected was the Salvation Army Citadel where most evidences of serious damage shows in the inside of the building. The new public conveniences on Midland Road split from top to bottom, and although the matter was referred to the Coal Board, responsibility for the damage was not accepted by virtue of mineral rights being vested in that Board. As the speed with which coal is extracted continuing to mount ever higher, coupled with further underground mechanisation and the ever increasing weight of traffic using the roads, I feel that damage to the fabric of surface structures will, at least for some time to come, increase rather than otherwise, but this matter will have to remain one for continuous vigilance.

As the first Contract for houses on the Doles Site approached completion, so did the number of complaints of bad housing or sleeping conditions decrease. Such complaints as were received were investigated and reports on conditions found reported to the Housing Committee for consideration when tenants for houses were selected and 10 families which had been brought to the notice of the Housing Committee were re-housed during the year. In spite of the number of new houses provided, the number of cases found where two families occupy the same house did not appear to diminish as had been hoped and still more cases came to light where young couples were having to live apart because of lack of adequate accommodation. It is some cause for satisfaction, however, to be able to report that the number of instances where young couples, with young families, occupied a single room as a separate dwelling was much less prevalent than had been the case some years ago. The general position, so far as overcrowding is concerned, shows little variation from year to year, and, as has been stated in earlier Reports, a true assessment of the position in the light of a constantly shifting population is difficult, if not impossible to arrive at. The cost of providing new houses continued to rise and, as a direct result, the rent to be charged rose accordingly. Fears of earlier years that such rents might severely strain the financial resources, particularly of newly married couples, was proved during the year when, in several instances, offers of the tenancy of houses was declined simply on account of high rents. The hopes of the Council that where overcrowded families were re-housed or tenants of older properties accepted the tenancy of Council houses, that the houses so vacated would be available for letting to families in the lower wage groups received a serious

setback as, in very many instances, as soon as houses were vacated, they were not re-let but offered for sale. In some cases, such houses remained empty for long periods and no benefit accrued to the Council by applicants on their Waiting Lists being able to obtain the tenancy of these houses. More young couples, realising that they could not hope to obtain the tenancy of a Council house probably for some years decided to buy older properties. In some cases, repairs necessary to ageing houses absorbed available surplus capital and gave rise to feelings of uncertainty, but in other cases the difference in cost between an older house and a new one was put to every good purpose in re-conditioning the older properties with most satisfactory results, and some houses which would have probably been considered for demolition not only have been redeemed from this end, but, with simply normal maintenance, will provide quite good houses for several years.

On the vexed question of moral overcrowding, little more than has been said previously remains to be said. That this problem is a grave social problem cannot be denied but a really satisfactory remedy is not easy to come by. Further families were transferred from two bedroom houses to three bedroom Council houses during the year, and although this must have had some benefit, one can but wonder in how few number of years a similar position will again arise as younger children grow up into adolescents. Viewed strictly from this stand-point, the re-housing which was effected during the year can be regarded as a palliative measure rather than a cure, but it will at least allow children of opposite sexes to be separated better than would otherwise have been the case. In spite of all this, where children reach marrying age and, because of lack of housing accommodation, must stay at home, if even for a time, especially where other children remain at home, sleeping accommodation must continue to be severely limited and unsatisfactory conditions remain. The scarcity of bungalow accommodation for older people becomes an ever pressing matter as there must be numerous cases where an old couple or even just a man or a woman occupy a house which would accommodate a family and this would appear to be a matter warranting more consideration as and when opportunity affords. Even where only one family occupy a house, where such a family is composed of adolescents, of opposite sexes, and where the house has only very limited sleeping accommodation, a serious problem confronts parents, but much ingenuity on the part of such tenants to try to ensure necessary privacy for their children was found during the year. From this standpoint, there can

be no doubt that young people have very decided views on the matter and their parents left me in no doubt of their worries when they came to see me. The remarks contained in earlier Reports on the question of proper separation of the sexes in houses providing only two bedrooms, aggravated by "shift" work cannot be expanded any further.

During the year, two houses which had been included in the Council's proposals for possible demolition, were re-conditioned and other Owners may take similar action, and, provided houses have not been allowed to become so defective that it is virtually impossible for them to be re-conditioned, if more houses are re-conditioned and modernised, fewer houses will be required for re-housing purposes at the present high cost of construction. Where houses have completely outlived their usefulness, and steps are taken for their demolition, the question of the means of the tenants will have to be kept well in mind when re-housing becomes necessary. The limited means of some of these tenants, will, I fear, preclude their being able to accept the tenancy of a new Council house at a high rent. In some instances, such houses are tenanted by persons who have been Council house tenants but had to relinquish such tenancies purely from a financial reason. The houses they previously occupied commanded a lower rent than newer houses must command, and some difficulties must arise as a result, but such difficulties will have to be met as and when they do arise. The adverse effects of living under bad conditions may not be apparent at the moment, but there can be no doubt that sooner or later such ill effects will show themselves, and this is a most serious matter, particularly where young children are concerned. To spend their early life in dark, damp, insanitary houses, where a history of recurrent colds and constant sickness is the order of the day must undermine the general standard of health of such children, and many parents express themselves in no uncertain fashion when seeking better accommodation. The cost of providing new houses continues to exercise the minds of Elected Representatives, but progress has always been, and must continue to be, an expensive business.

Such houses allow families to occupy their own home rather than having to share a home with others, but this they do, frequently with regret. The fears of earlier years that families in the lower income groups might tend to drift back to older houses at lower rents was not very evident during the year although many more cases arose where tenants tried to arrange suitable exchanges. In most cases, tenants of new

houses maintained their new houses well, but some cases came to light where the reverse was the case.

Applicants for Council houses who, a few years ago accepted the tenancy of houses provided by the National Coal Board outside the District continued to try to return to the District, and very many of these people have renewed their applications for the tenancy of Council houses. As a result, the waiting lists continue to grow rather than decrease considerably as might reasonably have been expected in view of the number of new houses which have been provided in recent years. Even reasonably true assessment of the future housing needs must, therefore, continue to be almost impossible to arrive at if these people are to have any hope of moving back into the District. Coupled with this problem, it must be continually borne in mind that young couples marry, have a family, and naturally desire to have their own home, and with the increasing expectation of life, so do more and more older people continue to require houses. The only satisfactory answer to this problem must, therefore, be the continuing provision of more new houses. As was mentioned a little earlier, if more bungalows were able to be provided, and if houses vacated could be let to young couples on the Housing Waiting List, some really definite progress could be reasonably expected. So far as Council properties are concerned, such a programme could be put into operation, but doubts must exist so far as privately owned properties are concerned. Whether arrangements could be made with the owners of privately owned properties is a matter which cannot be speculated upon at the moment, but the possibility appears to merit consideration.

During the year, far more enquiries were made as to the possible continuing life of properties, especially when purchase was being considered, but in quite a number of instances, House Agents sought information as to possible future action when deciding whether monies spent on older properties would be justified. Naturally, expenditure is kept within reasonable limits if the continuing life of property is likely to be strictly limited. Proper information is supplied when such enquiries are made with a proviso that where properties are, in fact, included in the Council's tentative list for demolition, exact information as to when action will be taken cannot be specified. On the other hand there are many houses which, with the spending of a comparatively small amount of money, would continue to provide reasonably satisfactory accommodation for several more years. Whether the new Legislation will result in the bringing of such houses

back into a good state of repair will, for the moment, have to remain a matter for inclusion in a future Report, and one can but hope such Legislation will encourage reluctant Owners to be more ready to rehabilitate their property.

During the year, following most informal approach, further Undertakings were able to be obtained to the effect that if tenants of some houses included in the Council's proposals were re-housed, the houses they vacate will not be re-let, but will either be demolished or used, after alteration, for some purpose other than as dwellinghouses. Such Undertakings will result in a considerable saving both of time and money by dispensing with the long, tedious legal procedure resulting from the declaration of Clearance Areas.

During the year, two further houses on Back Lane were demolished, one house in High Street was demolished, and one house in Summer Lane will not be re-let but will be absorbed into The Cross Inn and utilised, in part, for the provision of new sanitary accommodation, for both sexes, entered from inside these licensed premises. The tenant of another house in Chapel Fold was vacated during the year, and No. 43, High Street was also vacated. In both sets of property, one house remains occupied, in each instance by a lady of advancing years, and when these two ladies have been re-housed, both sets of property, involving five houses in all, will be demolished.

Some progress has been made, therefore, on the question of the removal of unfit houses.

Further applications for Improvement Grants under the provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, were received during the year, but the decision of earlier years not to implement the optional provisions of this Section were adhered to.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As in previous years, as much time as possible was devoted to this vitally important matter, and premises registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were kept under regular supervision. The mobile wet fish shop depoted in the District was inspected at fairly frequent intervals as also were the mobile butchers' shops coming into the District from other Districts. School Canteens were also visited.

FOOD PREMISES

At the end of the year, the following Food Premises were in use in the District :—

Butchers' shops—Retail—Private	... ..	10
Butchers' shops—Retail—Multiple Firms	...	3
Bakehouses	... ..	4
Cafes	... ..	2
School Canteens	... ..	4
Catering Establishments	... ..	1
Fried Fish Shops (also selling wet fish)	... ..	10
Wet Fish Premises (sold from Mobile Shop)	...	1
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	... ..	9
Grocers and General Dealers	... ..	43
Confectioners	... ..	2
Licensed Premises (including W.M. Clubs)	...	15

The various premises were inspected, as opportunity afforded during the year, details of inspections being shown in the Table of Inspections.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 AND 1950

At the end of the year, two Supplementary licences authorising the sale of milk under the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" remained in force in the District.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS 1949 TO 1953

At the end of the year, the following Supplementary Licences remained in force :—

Milk sold under the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	... ..	3
Milk sold under the Special Designation "Sterilised"	... ..	2

ICE CREAM

During the year, further applications for the registration of premises for the sale of ice cream were received. The premises were inspected, and, following the previously declared policy of the Council in this respect, Certificates of Registration for the sale of wrapped ice cream only, were issued.

At the end of the year, 30 sets of premises were registered as detailed below :—

Storage and Distribution Depot ...	1
Sale of Wrapped Ice Cream	29

No premises remain in the District for the manufacture of ice cream.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

No further premises were registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as premises used for the preparation of Sausages or Potted, Pickled, Pressed or Preserved Food intended for sale. The nine sets of premises registered in previous years continue to be registered and were inspected as frequently as other work would allow throughout the year. All such premises were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering in the two sets of premises licensed temporarily in 1954, continued during the year under review, again on temporary licences only, in view of information received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that new Byelaws were to be issued and probably minimum standards for such premises. In view of the fact that licences could only be granted up to July, 1959, it was felt that until the position was able to be properly clarified, the temporary licences continue in operation.

All animals for slaughter continued to be inspected, both ante-mortem and post mortem, and the standard of food animal slaughtered again continued to be maintained at a very high level. Slaughtering practice was good and nothing to which serious exception could be taken occurred during the year. Cleansing of the slaughterhouses both during and after slaughter was good in the main, but where exception was taken to the lack of adequate swilling down during slaughter, conditions were remedied forthwith. In one of the slaughterhouses, the slaughtering floor was brushed down with boiling water and detergent, and this practice received every encouragement.

During the year, arrangements were able to be made by the butchers using the slaughterhouses for slaughtering offal to be collected and taken away to be treated and there-

after used as fertiliser, and as a result, much material which previously had had to be disposed of on the Tip was taken away completely, thus reducing both heating in the Tip and also nuisance from flies etc.

The Table below gives details of food animals slaughtered in the District and the unsound conditions found. As in the previous year most of the duties of Meat Inspection were carried out after normal working hours and at the week-ends. In view of the pressure of other work, perhaps it was as well that this was so, and, in any case, it was worthwhile as it allowed more time for this vitally essential work and allowed me the opportunity of being present during the whole time whilst slaughtering was being carried out. The standard of food animal slaughtered also contributed to the feeling of satisfaction. More slaughter was carried out during the year on Sunday mornings than had been the case in the previous year, and late slaughter, particularly at the beginning of the week could not be avoided when animals were late in arriving in the District from fat stock markets. I feel that I must stress, however, that the butchers were anxious to finish slaughtering as soon as possible, not only to prevent my having to spend long periods in the slaughterhouses, but also for their own. During the spell of rather hot weather, the butchers were encouraged to kill a little later in the evening as this was better from the standpoint of cooling of the meat, comfort of themselves during slaughter and to minimise, so far as possible, trouble from flies. In the latter respect, they were urged to use a recognised aerosol to prevent fly nuisance.

No case of Emergency Slaughter arose during the year.

It is with regret that I have to report the first instance where condemnation of carcase beef since de-control. To have gone so long without such condemnation is remarkable in itself, but is an indication of the care exercised by the butchers when buying their animals for slaughter. At the same time, I feel I would be failing in my duty if I did not draw attention to this case as it only serves to show that even when only prime animals are bought, disease can be present without this being apparent in the live animal, and in the case in point, I noticed no signs in the live animal which would have given rise to suspicion.

It is with pleasure that I am again able to report that routine inspection for the presence of *Cysticercus Bovis*, which carried out in all bovines slaughtered, failed to reveal any evidence of Cysticercosis, although from information received

from various sources, a fair amount of this condition was found in animals passing through the Doncaster Fat Stock Market.

The forequarters of beef rejected as unfit for food because of tuberculosis were disposed of, having been suitably treated as to be quite unsaleable for human food, to a disposal plant where, after treatment, they became fertiliser. Other offals found to be unfit for food were similarly disposed of. This is a matter on which I feel very strongly, and I consider that it is far preferable for such material to be passed through a digester and turned into fertiliser rather than run any risk of diseased and unsound food being eaten.

Other than the animal from which the forequarters were rejected, only offals were found to be affected, and speaking generally, the incidence of various classes of conditions justifying rejection were slightly lower than in the previous year. It would be most unwise, however, to draw a general inference that, especially with Tuberculosis, this disease is less prevalent than was the case some years ago, having in mind that only prime animals are being slaughtered in this District, and I have no figures from which I could draw comparisons of conditions found prior to Control in January, 1940. There can be no doubt, however, that in spite of all the work which has been done in trying to eliminate this disease from food animals (bovines and swine) much remains still to be done, and one can but hope that sustained efforts in this direction will, in the reasonably near future, result in an ever decreasing incidence of the disease. Prior to the outbreak of the last War, in most instances, if a butcher was unfortunate enough to have animals totally condemned, or even quarters of beef condemned, he had to stand the loss himself. During more recent times, insurance schemes at fat stock markets are more prevalent and this minimises the possible loss, but, naturally, such insurance schemes only hold good where the risk of condemnation is expected to be least, i.e. for prime animals.

MEAT INSPECTION 1956

CARCASSES and OFFAL inspected and condemned in whole
or in part.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	443	—	4	743	30	—
Number inspected	443	—	4	743	30	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	4.28%	—	—	—	3.33%	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.22%	—	—	—	3.33%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Details of organs etc., rejected as unfit for food, on account of the conditions stated, are shown below :—

TUBERCULOSIS

Bullocks

Sets of lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Mesentery and intestines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Heifers

Sets of lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Heads and tongues	8
Livers	4
Mesentery and intestines	5
Forequarters	2

Pigs

Sets of lungs	1
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PERICARDITIS

Pig hearts	1
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CIRRHOSIS

Bullock livers	6
Heifer livers	9

PARASITIC

Bullock lungs	4
Heifer lungs	5

ABSCESSSES

Bullock lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bullock livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heifer lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heifer livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

All organs etc., found to be unfit for food was voluntarily surrendered and during the early part of the year was disposed of by burying under the Council's Refuse Tip, but, as has already been stated carcase beef rejected as unfit for food was disposed of for suitable heat treatment, and later in the year, unsound offal, as well as slaughtering waste was disposed of regularly for heat treatment and conversion into

fertilisers. Slaughtering refuse was collected by the Council's Refuse collecting vehicle the day after slaughter and disposed of on the Council's Refuse Tip.

OTHER FOODS

Details of other foodstuffs found to be unsound and which, also, were voluntarily surrendered, are given below. The meat, other than tinned meat shown in this list were rejected as unfit for food as a result of the failure of a refrigerator tube containing sulphur dioxide which exposed the meat to a high concentration of the gas. Following temporary repairs, the refrigerator was completely overhauled and the cooling coils and compressor renewed, sulphur dioxide no longer being used.

Type of Foodstuff	Quantity
Pork Sausage	10 lbs.
1 lb. Pork Pies	4
Peas—1 lb. 3 oz. tins	2
15½ oz. tins	1
A.2 tins	1
Tomatoes—14 oz. tins	1
15½ oz. tins	1
2 lb. 3 oz. tins	3
Victoria Plums—1 lb. 13 oz. tins	1
Carnation Milk—¾ pint tins	1
Irish Stewed Steak—15½ oz. tins	2
Mixed Vegetables—1 lb. 3 oz. tins	1
Primula Cheese—4½ oz. packets	3
Braised Steak—16 oz. tins	1
Corned Beef—6 lb. tins	1
Pineapple Pieces—15 oz. tins	1
16 oz. tins	2
Pork Luncheon Meat—2 lb. tins	1
Sardines—3¼ oz. tins	1
Apricots—1 lb. 14 oz. tins	1
Pears—1 lb. 13 oz. tins	1
Luncheon Meat—7 oz. tins	2
Crab—6½ oz. tins	1
Imported shin beef	42 lbs.
Leg of pork	5 lbs.

Type of Foodstuff	Quantity
Imported Beef	10 lbs.
Imported lamb	3 lbs.
Pig liver	2 lbs.
English hind shin	4 lbs.
Imported thin steak	14 lbs.
Fat	28 lbs.
Marrow Bones	28 lbs.
Jellied Veal	3 lbs.
Boiled Ham	9 lbs.
Pork	70 lbs.

Other than the foodstuffs which were rejected because of failure of the refrigerator tube already referred to the quantity of Other Foods which were found to be unsound during the year was appreciably less than was the case in the previous year.

During routine inspections of food shops, it was noted during the year that frozen foods were very much more in evidence than had previously been the case, but the type of such foods stocked mainly comprised frozen vegetables. I was advised, however, that as a result of increasing demand, other frozen foods such as chickens, frozen fish cakes and frozen fish were likely to be stocked at a later time. This will be the subject of comment in later Reports.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-56

During the year, this most important new legislation dealing with food premises and the transport and handling of meat came into operation. In order to try to obtain uniformity of administration, the Divisional Medical Officer called a series of conferences with the Public Health Inspectors in the Districts covered by the Divisional Medical Officer, and, as a result, Notes of Guidance for each type of Food Premises were drawn up, and these, after being submitted to, and approved by the Council were issued to all food premises in the District as well as to known persons with travelling shops coming into the District. At the request of the Members of the Royston Tradespeople's Association, I have the privilege of addressing a Meeting of that Association, at length, to explain the requirements of the Regulations.

Owing to continuing pressure of other work, it was not found possible to visit and inspect all food premises in the District, but shops were inspected as other duties allowed,

and some progress is able to be reported. It is with regret that I am unable to report spectacular progress in this field but by the end of the year the following progress had been made :—

The whole fleet of vehicles used by Messrs. Midland Counties Dairies Ltd., used for the retail sale of ice cream had been fitted with approved hand washing facilities.

Butchers' vans coming into the District were similarly fitted with approved hand washing facilities.

Vehicles from which bread and confectionery were sold retail were similarly fitted with hand washing facilities.

Necessary additional hand washing facilities, and sinks were fitted into 15 shops, refrigerated counters, additional refrigerated display cabinets and refrigerators were fitted into nine shops and glass counter screens were fitted into seven shops. It would have been pleasing to be able to report that all shops had been able to be inspected, but this work will be completed as soon as it is possible, but although spectacular results are not able to be reported, nonetheless some real progress was made.

Approach was made to the various Breweries and I hope, by the time another Report is prepared, to be able to report considerable progress in this direction.

The locally depoted mobile fish shop was fitted with hand washing facilities during the year, and improvements to frying facilities in two fried fish shops were under consideration at the end of the year. The use of refrigerating chests in fried fish premises showed signs of gaining greater popularity during the year, and one can but hope that eventually, all premises on which wet fish is stored will be provided with this equipment.

The food preparing premises attached to the Junior Schools was completely overhauled during the year, additional sinks, and hand washing facilities being provided, cooking equipment was modernised and a canopy provided for the extraction of steam. The whole of these premises were re-decorated.

Four instances of minor infringements of the Regulations were noted during the year and warnings resulted in satisfactory results.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year, Mr. W. Thornton who had held the appointment of Rodent Operative for several years took up

other employment in the Council's service, and from June to September, this work had to be temporarily suspended pending a new appointment. Mr. A. Smith, who had been employed in the Highways Department was appointed to the vacancy, and, as no suitable training course was available at the time of his appointment, Miss Jones, Technical Advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food offered to come to Royston to give him necessary instruction. The assistance afforded in this respect was greatly appreciated and Mr. Smith undertook training at an approved Course a little later in the year. The systematic inspection of the District for the presence of rats and mice, followed, where found to be necessary by treatments, continued throughout the year.

Following a 10% test of the sewers, evidences of some re-infestation became apparent and sewer maintenance treatments were carried out for the first time since 1954. I am pleased to be able to report, however, that although some re-infestation of the sewers in that part of the District from Army Row to Alfred Street came to light, serious infestation had not recurred.

Regular routine inspections continued to be carried out at the Council's Refuse Tip, Salvage Shed, Pooles Lane Sewage Disposal Works and Church Hill Depot, treatments being given whenever this was considered to be necessary. At the end of the year, little or no evidence of residual infestation of these Local Authority Undertakings was evident.

Private Properties continued to be treated by Block Control Methods, and I would draw particular attention to the infestation in the area bounded by Dove Hill on the west and Godley Street on the east, including the land at the rear of Park View. The size of the area alone and the number of properties, outbuildings and temporary structures involved a great deal of inspection work and considerable time to cover the area adequately, but, so far as could be ascertained, the infestation was eventually cleared.

I would like to thank both Mr. Thornton and Mr. Smith for the valuable work they have done and for the results which they have achieved, and one can but hope that where premises have been cleared of rats and mice, occupiers will do everything possible to discourage further infestation.

The following is a copy of the Report of the twelve months ended 31st March, 1957, submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL				(5) Agri- cultural
	(1) Local Auth- ority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All other (inc. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6	2670	150	2826	6
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	23	4	27	—
(b) Survey under the Act	6	176	—	182	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	—	—	—	—
3. Total inspections carried out — including re inspections	88	270	20	378	—
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats { Minor	4	9	—	13	—
{ Major	—	46	4	50	—
(b) Mice { Major	—	—	—	—	—
{ Minor	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the Local Authority	4	55	4	63	—
6. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	10	40	4	54	—
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment.....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out	—	—	12	—	—

Once again, it is very gratifying to be able to report that in no instance was it found necessary to take formal action for the carrying out either of treatment or structural repairs. On the contrary, everyone concerned was only too willing and anxious to bring evidences of infestation to the notice of the Department, to co-operate to the full when treatments were being carried out, and to seek advice, thereafter, as to the best methods to be employed so as to minimise, as far as possible, the risk of re-infestation.

BARNSLEY CANAL

As has been the case for some years now, this matter continued to be one requiring constant attention during the year.

Regular inspections were made to ascertain the depth of water, evidences of flow and weed growths. The depth of water remaining in the canal fell still further, and what a few years ago had been a wide stretch of water of moderate depth became a narrow stream in which evidences of flow were, to all intents and purposes, completely absent. Weeds continued to grow more strongly than ever in the silt on the exposed banks of the canal above the water level, and the risk of serious nuisance arising from such weed growths was one which could not possibly be overlooked. Following the action of earlier years, approach was again made to the Inland Waterways Executive, and, as a result, weed growths were removed, but it is of interest to note that so little water remained in the canal that the flat bottomed boat previously used when weeds were removed could no longer be used. I regret to have to report that finality in this matter had still not been reached at the end of the year, but one can but hope that by the time another Report is prepared some definite progress will have been made.

Remaining as an open water-course, this canal must continue to call for the utmost vigilance and regular inspection in order that serious nuisance and potential menace to health does not arise.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

It is becoming almost monotonous to have to draw attention to continued and persistent mis-use of these public amenities.

Damage reported in previous years continued throughout the year under review, but a further serious aspect—the loss of revenue—became more apparent during the year.

When the new conveniences were erected near the entrance to the Welfare Park only a few years ago, internal walls were not carried to full height to allow the maximum amount of ventilation, and how much this is required on occasions words cannot hope to convey, but it was found that persons using the building, presumably for the purpose for which it was provided, instead of entering the W.C. compartments by way of the door, climbed over the top of the walls doing damage to the walls, ceiling plaster and even to the light fittings, and, as a result, wire mesh screens had to be fixed to the top of the walls. Following the fixing of the screens, presumably as a mark of strong dissension, someone tried to cut out the patent lock on one W.C. compartment and even damaged the door frame to such an extent that part had to be cut away and replaced. For a long time, the Midland Road Conveniences were not defaced by mural artists, but during the year under review this no longer applied.

It is with real regret that I have to report that both male and female sides of the building suffered in like manner, and on very numerous occasions, the building was found to be in a most revolting and filthy condition.

It has been said on numerous occasions that the continuing wanton and utterly senseless damage and destruction constantly found in all public sanitary accommodation cannot be condemned too strongly, and I have not the least doubt that such accommodation in this District suffers no more than similar accommodation throughout the country. The utter disregard of the cost of providing and maintaining public amenities by irresponsible persons must remain a matter of grave concern, but until such time as someone causing the damage and defacement can be found and made an example of, apparently little can be done other than deploring the constant expenditure of public money with little or no lasting benefit.

No evidence of further serious movement was apparent in the Midland Road Conveniences during the year, but this position will have to be closely watched in view of serious damage from ground movement becoming ever more evident in buildings in the locality.

The urinal in Cross Lane continued to be damaged during the year, sparge pipes being ripped from the walls complete with flushing roses, and even the pipe box covering the water service pipe was partly stripped.

The urinal on The Wells became more and more derelict, but owing to extreme pressure of other work, not much progress was able to be made on the proposed new conveniences to be erected to replace this accommodation. In the light of experience of the damage continually being done on Midland Road, little encouragement can be obtained, and the strongest doubts must exist as to whether the considerable cost of providing such vitally necessary public sanitary accommodation would be justified.

SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS

The Scheme whereby dustbins are renewed and charged to the General Rate Fund continued throughout the year.

The Scheme continued to work both smoothly and efficiently, and in only a very few instances, following reports of mis-use by the Members of the Public Cleansing Staff, were visits necessary, but the visits were worthwhile as conditions were remedied, and the tenants concerned used their dustbins properly and no further complaints were received about them.

The price of dustbins increased again during the year, and the cost was still further increased as a result of Purchase Tax being payable. In view of the high cost of dustbins, it was even more essential to ensure that they were properly used, and were only withdrawn from use when absolutely necessary.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

As in previous years, the Council continued to regard the possible siting of such dwellings in the district with disfavour, and no such dwellings are permanently sited.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Further efforts were made during the year to start training classes but still without result. Following the instruction from the Home Office, a circular letter was sent by the Area Civil Defence Officer to all enrolled Volunteers with a view to cancelling the enrolment of non-effective Volunteers, and as a result, almost all the people who signed enrolment forms during the house to house canvas a few years ago, were removed from the effective strength.

MORTUARY

Other than normal works of cleansing and minor repairs, no works of maintenance, repair or replacement was found to be necessary during the year.

CEMETERY

All the Cemetery Registers and Records continued to be lodged in my office.

During the year ended 3rd April, 1957, the following interments took place in the Council's Cemetery :—

Interments in new graves	31
Interments involving re-opening of graves... ..	25
Interments in the Public Grave	3
	<hr/>
Total Interments	59
	<hr/>

Two graves were bought "In Reserve."

Approval was given to the erection of 30 Memorials.

Income from fees during the year amounted to the sum of £250. 9s. 0d. as detailed below :—

	£	s.	d.
Purchase of Graves	89	5	0
Re-opening of Graves	121	0	0
Interments in Public Grave	1	4	6
Vaulting Fees	2	2	0
Memorial Fees	32	15	0
Grants of Right	4	2	6
	<hr/>		
	£250	9	0
	<hr/>		

The system whereby mutual assistance was afforded the Parochial Church Council continued during the year, accounts for time spent etc., preparing graves in the Church Burial Ground being rendered on the Parochial Church Council. Income from this source during the year amounted to the sum of £32. 16s. 0d.

It was found during the year that considerable damage had been done to the railings at the lower end of the Council's Cemetery, many sections having been broken down, and, despite the posting of notices in different parts of the Cemetery to the effect that children would not be allowed in, except

when accompanied by an adult, appeared to be completely ignored judging by the way in which coloured chippings placed on graves were mixed from grave to grave. One cannot but wonder why such senseless antics continue. The damage to the railings is, of course, a much more serious matter, but, as with other damage in various parts of the District, persons causing such damage were not able to be found and as a result, suitable action against them was not able to be instituted. I feel very strongly on this matter and am quite satisfied that if an example could be made in only one instance, this would have a definite deterrent effect—at least, one could hope so !

Further complaints were received during the year of the general condition of the Church Burial Ground, and one must admit that such complaints were justified. As the Council have no control over this Burial Ground, the matter was again referred to the Parochial Church Council, and I was invited to meet that Council to discuss ways and means of bringing this burial ground into a much better state. The possibility of this Council being able to assist in this respect was raised, but in view of the amount of work requiring to be done, as revealed on inspection, did not allow any offer to be made in this direction.

CONCLUSION

As must be apparent from the foregoing Report, the Sanitary Section of the Public Health Department again had a most strenuous, as well as a very varied year. Callers at the office continued to be much higher than was the case only a very few years ago, and it is some cause for satisfaction if Members of the General Public are making more use of, and increased demands upon, the Department and upon time. This is a healthy sign and is to be encouraged. The time taken in interviews automatically resulted, once again, to loss of time available for making visits during what are normally regarded as Office Hours and much visiting was done long after the normally accepted working hours, and even in spite of this, callers frequently complained of having to call at the Council Offices more than once as I was not available in the office to answer their questions. In this connection, it is of interest to recall how many callers refused to leave either name or address or a message of the reason for their wishing to see me, insisting on a personal interview. Such evidences of confidence made late visiting worthwhile, even though tiring and trying, cutting down possible leisure time to the minimum.

